



House of Representatives

File No. 673

General Assembly

January Session, 2021

(Reprint of File No. 255)

Substitute House Bill No. 5592
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 10, 2021

AN ACT REDEFINING "VETERAN" AND ESTABLISHING A QUALIFYING REVIEW BOARD.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 27-103 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

3 (a) As used in the general statutes, except chapter 504, and except as
4 otherwise provided: (1) "Armed forces" means the United States Army,
5 Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Air Force and any reserve
6 component thereof, including the Connecticut National Guard
7 performing duty as provided in Title 32 of the United States Code, as
8 amended from time to time; (2) "veteran" means any person honorably
9 discharged from, [or] released under honorable conditions from or
10 released with an other than honorable discharge based on a qualifying
11 condition from, active service in, the armed forces; (3) "service in time
12 of war" means service of ninety or more cumulative days during a
13 period of war unless separated from service earlier because of an injury

14 incurred or aggravated in the line of duty or a service-connected
15 disability rated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs,
16 except that if the period of war lasted less than ninety days, "service in
17 time of war" means service for the entire such period of war unless
18 separated because of any such injury or disability; (4) "period of war"
19 has the same meaning as provided in 38 USC 101, as amended from time
20 to time, except that the "Vietnam Era" means the period beginning on
21 February 28, 1961, and ending on July 1, 1975, in all cases; and "period
22 of war" shall include service while engaged in combat or a combat
23 support role in Lebanon, July 1, 1958, to November 1, 1958, or September
24 29, 1982, to March 30, 1984; Grenada, October 25, 1983, to December 15,
25 1983; Operation Earnest Will, involving the escort of Kuwaiti oil tankers
26 flying the United States flag in the Persian Gulf, July 24, 1987, to August
27 1, 1990; and Panama, December 20, 1989, to January 31, 1990, and shall
28 include service during such periods with the armed forces of any
29 government associated with the United States; and (5) "qualifying
30 condition" means (A) a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder or
31 traumatic brain injury made by [, or (B)] an individual licensed to
32 provide health care services at a United States Department of Veterans
33 Affairs facility, (B) an experience of military sexual trauma, as described
34 in 38 USC 1720D, as amended from time to time, disclosed to [] an
35 individual licensed to provide health care services at a United States
36 Department of Veterans Affairs facility, or (C) a determination that
37 sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression was more likely
38 than not the primary reason for an other than honorable discharge, as
39 determined in accordance with subsections (c) and (d) of this section.

40 (b) As used in this part, "Veterans Residential Services facility" means
41 the Veterans Residential Services facility in Rocky Hill maintained by
42 the Department of Veterans Affairs that provides temporary and other
43 supported residential services for qualifying veterans; ["hospital" means
44 any incorporated hospital or tuberculosis sanatorium in the state and
45 any state chronic disease hospital, or hospital for persons with mental
46 illness] " long-term care facility" means a facility that has been federally
47 certified as a skilled nursing facility or intermediate care facility;

48 "Healthcare Center" means the [hospital] long-term care facility in
49 Rocky Hill maintained by the Department of Veterans Affairs; "veteran"
50 means any veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of this section, who is a
51 resident of this state; "eligible dependent" means any parent, wife or
52 husband, or child of a veteran who has no adequate means of support;
53 and "eligible family member" means any parent, brother or sister, wife
54 or husband, or child or children under eighteen years of age, of any
55 veteran whose cooperation in the program is integral to the treatment
56 of the veteran.

57 (c) Not later than October 1, 2021, the Commissioner of Veterans
58 Affairs shall establish a Qualifying Review Board, which shall review
59 applications of veterans submitted under subsection (d) of this section.
60 Said board shall be part of the Executive Department and shall consist
61 of five voting members who, by education or experience, shall be
62 knowledgeable of veterans benefits and programs and who shall have a
63 demonstrated interest in the concerns of veterans. A majority of the
64 members of the board shall be veterans.

65 (1) The membership of the board shall consist of the following
66 members:

67 (A) One member appointed by the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs
68 in consultation with the chairperson of the Department of Veterans
69 Affairs Board of Trustees, who shall be a member of said board;

70 (B) The manager of the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of
71 Advocacy and Assistance, or the manager's designee; and

72 (C) Three members appointed by the Commissioner of Veterans
73 Affairs.

74 (2) All initial appointments to the board shall be made not later than
75 December 1, 2021, and shall terminate on November 31, 2023, or
76 November 31, 2024, as applicable, regardless of when the initial
77 appointment was made. Any member of the board may serve more than
78 one term.

79 (3) Members first appointed shall have the following terms: (A) The
80 member of the Department of Veterans Affairs Board of Trustees and
81 the manager of the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Advocacy
82 and Assistance, or the manager's designee, shall initially serve a term of
83 three years, and (B) the three members appointed by the Commissioner
84 of Veterans Affairs shall initially serve a term of two years. Members
85 shall serve a term of four years thereafter. Members shall continue to
86 serve until their successors are appointed.

87 (4) Any vacancy shall be filled by the Commissioner of Veterans
88 Affairs. Any vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be
89 filled for the balance of the unexpired term.

90 (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of section 4-9a,
91 the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs shall select the chairperson of the
92 board from among the members of the board. Such chairperson shall
93 schedule the first meeting of the board, which shall be held not later
94 than January 1, 2022.

95 (6) A majority of the board shall constitute a quorum for the
96 transaction of any business.

97 (7) The members of the board shall serve without compensation.

98 (8) The board shall meet at least monthly or as often as deemed
99 necessary by the chairperson based on the number of applications
100 pending before the board.

101 (d) (1) Any veteran who receives an other than honorable discharge
102 and who believes such discharge characterization was based on such
103 veteran's sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, may
104 file an application for state-based veterans benefits. Such veteran may
105 include evidence supporting his or her claim that such discharge
106 characterization was based on such veteran's sexual orientation, gender
107 identity or gender expression.

108 (2) The commissioner shall promulgate a standardized application

109 form enumerating the required documentation necessary for filing an
110 application under this subsection and shall make such form available on
111 the Department of Veterans Affairs' Internet web site along with
112 instructions for filing the application.

113 (3) The commissioner shall promulgate a standardized request for
114 reconsideration form enumerating the required documentation
115 necessary for filing a request for reconsideration pursuant to
116 subdivision (5) of this subsection and shall make such form available on
117 the Department of Veterans Affairs' Internet web site along with
118 instructions for filing the request for reconsideration.

119 (4) The board shall review each application submitted and render a
120 recommendation to the commissioner as to whether the veteran's sexual
121 orientation, gender identity or gender expression was more likely than
122 not the primary reason for an other than honorable discharge. The board
123 shall review each application not later than thirty days after receipt and
124 render a written recommendation to the commissioner not later than
125 thirty days after such review. The commissioner shall issue a written
126 decision not later than ten days after receipt of the board's
127 recommendation, approving or denying the application. If the
128 commissioner approves the application, such veteran shall be eligible
129 for state-based veterans benefits.

130 (5) A veteran aggrieved by the commissioner's decision may file a
131 request for reconsideration with the commissioner not later than fifteen
132 days after receipt of the commissioner's decision. Such veteran may
133 include supplemental documentation in support of the request for
134 reconsideration. The commissioner shall provide due consideration to
135 the request for reconsideration and render a decision not later than ten
136 days after receipt of such request for reconsideration. The
137 commissioner's decision shall be a final decision by the Department of
138 Veterans Affairs and may be appealed to the Superior Court in
139 accordance with the provisions of section 4-183.

140 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 4-61bb of the general statutes is

141 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
142 *1, 2021*):

143 (a) For the purposes of this section, "licensing authority" means the
144 Department of Consumer Protection, the Department of Emergency
145 Services and Public Protection, the Labor Department, the Department
146 of Motor Vehicles, the Department of Public Health, the Board of
147 Regents for Higher Education, the Office of Higher Education, the Board
148 of Trustees of The University of Connecticut or the Police Officer
149 Standards and Training Council; "service member" means a member of
150 the armed forces or the National Guard or a veteran; "armed forces" has
151 the same meaning as set forth in section 27-103; and "veteran" [means
152 any person who was discharged or released under conditions other than
153 dishonorable from active service in the armed forces] has the same
154 meaning as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act.

155 Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 4a-59 of the general statutes is
156 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
157 *1, 2021*):

158 (c) All open market orders or contracts shall be awarded to (1) the
159 lowest responsible qualified bidder, the qualities of the articles to be
160 supplied, their conformity with the specifications, their suitability to the
161 requirements of the state government and the delivery terms being
162 taken into consideration and, at the discretion of the Commissioner of
163 Administrative Services, life-cycle costs and trade-in or resale value of
164 the articles may be considered where it appears to be in the best interest
165 of the state, (2) the highest scoring bidder in a multiple criteria bid, in
166 accordance with the criteria set forth in the bid solicitation for the
167 contract, or (3) the proposer whose proposal is deemed by the awarding
168 authority to be the most advantageous to the state, in accordance with
169 the criteria set forth in the request for proposals, including price and
170 evaluation factors. Notwithstanding any provision of the general
171 statutes to the contrary, each state agency awarding a contract through
172 competitive negotiation shall include price as an explicit factor in the
173 criteria in the request for proposals and for the contract award. In

174 considering past performance of a bidder for the purpose of
175 determining the "lowest responsible qualified bidder" or the "highest
176 scoring bidder in a multiple criteria bid", the commissioner shall
177 evaluate the skill, ability and integrity of the bidder in terms of the
178 bidder's fulfillment of past contract obligations and the bidder's
179 experience or lack of experience in delivering supplies, materials,
180 equipment or contractual services of the size or amount for which bids
181 have been solicited. In determining the lowest responsible qualified
182 bidder for the purposes of this section, the commissioner may give a
183 price preference of up to ten per cent for (A) the purchase of goods made
184 with recycled materials or the purchase of recyclable or remanufactured
185 products if the commissioner determines that such preference would
186 promote recycling or remanufacturing. As used in this subsection,
187 "recyclable" means able to be collected, separated or otherwise
188 recovered from the solid waste stream for reuse, or for use in the
189 manufacture or assembly of another package or product, by means of a
190 recycling program which is reasonably available to at least seventy-five
191 per cent of the state's population, "remanufactured" means restored to
192 its original function and thereby diverted from the solid waste stream
193 by retaining the bulk of components that have been used at least once
194 and by replacing consumable components and "remanufacturing"
195 means any process by which a product is remanufactured; (B) the
196 purchase of motor vehicles powered by a clean alternative fuel; (C) the
197 purchase of motor vehicles powered by fuel other than a clean
198 alternative fuel and conversion equipment to convert such motor
199 vehicles allowing the vehicles to be powered by either the exclusive use
200 of clean alternative fuel or dual use of a clean alternative fuel and a fuel
201 other than a clean alternative fuel. As used in this subsection, "clean
202 alternative fuel" means natural gas, electricity, hydrogen or propane
203 when used as a motor vehicle fuel; or (D) the purchase of goods or
204 services from a micro business, except that, in the case of a veteran-
205 owned micro business, the commissioner may give a price preference of
206 up to fifteen per cent. As used in this subsection, "micro business" means
207 a business with gross revenues not exceeding three million dollars in the
208 most recently completed fiscal year, "veteran-owned micro business"

209 means a micro business of which at least fifty-one per cent of the
210 ownership is held by one or more veterans and "veteran" [means any
211 person (i) honorably discharged from, or released under honorable
212 conditions from active service in, the armed forces, as defined in section
213 27-103, or (ii) with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who
214 has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from
215 active service in the armed forces] has the same meaning as provided in
216 section 27-103, as amended by this act. All other factors being equal,
217 preference shall be given to supplies, materials and equipment
218 produced, assembled or manufactured in the state and services
219 originating and provided in the state. Except with regard to contracts
220 that may be paid for with United States Department of Transportation
221 funds, if any such bidder refuses to accept, within ten days, a contract
222 awarded to such bidder, such contract may be awarded to the next
223 lowest responsible qualified bidder or the next highest scoring bidder in
224 a multiple criteria bid, whichever is applicable, and so on until such
225 contract is awarded and accepted. Except with regard to contracts that
226 may be paid for with United States Department of Transportation funds,
227 if any such proposer refuses to accept, within ten days, a contract
228 awarded to such proposer, such contract shall be awarded to the next
229 most advantageous proposer, and so on until the contract is awarded
230 and accepted. There shall be a written evaluation made of each bid. This
231 evaluation shall identify the vendors and their respective costs and
232 prices, document the reason why any vendor is deemed to be
233 nonresponsive and recommend a vendor for award. A contract valued
234 at one million dollars or more shall be awarded to a bidder other than
235 the lowest responsible qualified bidder or the highest scoring bidder in
236 a multiple criteria bid, whichever is applicable, only with written
237 approval signed by the Commissioner of Administrative Services and
238 by the Comptroller. The commissioner shall post on the department's
239 Internet web site all awards made pursuant to the provisions of this
240 section.

241 Sec. 4. Subdivision (28) of section 5-196 of the general statutes is
242 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*

243 1, 2021):

244 (28) "Veteran", when used in this chapter and in section 5-180, [means
245 any person (A) (i) honorably discharged from, or released under
246 honorable conditions from active service in, the armed forces of the
247 United States, or (ii) with a qualifying condition, as defined in section
248 27-103, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or
249 dishonorable from active service in the armed forces of the United
250 States] has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103, as amended
251 by this act, and (B) who has performed such service in time of war, as
252 defined in said section, except that the final date for service in time of
253 war during World War II shall be December 31, 1947.

254 Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 7-294d of the general statutes is
255 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
256 *1, 2021*):

257 (b) No person may be employed as a police officer by any law
258 enforcement unit for a period exceeding one year unless such person
259 has been certified under the provisions of subsection (a) of this section
260 or has been granted an extension by the council. No person may serve
261 as a police officer during any period when such person's certification
262 has been cancelled or revoked pursuant to the provisions of subsection
263 (c) of this section. In addition to the requirements of this subsection, the
264 council may establish other qualifications for the employment of police
265 officers and require evidence of fulfillment of these qualifications. The
266 certification of any police officer who is not employed by a law
267 enforcement unit for a period of time in excess of two years, unless such
268 officer is on leave of absence, shall be considered lapsed. Upon
269 reemployment as a police officer, such officer shall apply for
270 recertification in a manner provided by the council, provided such
271 recertification process requires the police officer to submit to a urinalysis
272 drug test that screens for controlled substances, including, but not
273 limited to, anabolic steroids, and receive a result indicating no presence
274 of any controlled substance not prescribed for the officer. The council
275 shall certify any applicant who presents evidence of satisfactory

276 completion of a program or course of instruction in another state or, if
277 the applicant is a veteran or a member of the armed forces or the
278 National Guard, as part of training during service in the armed forces,
279 that is equivalent in content and quality to that required in this state,
280 provided such applicant passes an examination or evaluation as
281 required by the council. For the purposes of this section, "veteran"
282 [means any person who was discharged or released under conditions
283 other than dishonorable from active service in the armed forces] and
284 "armed forces" [has] have the same [meaning] meanings as provided in
285 section 27-103, as amended by this act.

286 Sec. 6. Section 8-75 of the general statutes is repealed and the
287 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

288 As among applicants eligible for occupancy at the rent involved
289 whose needs for housing accommodations are substantially equal, as
290 determined by the developer, preference shall be given to veterans. As
291 used in this section, "veteran" [means any person (1) honorably
292 discharged from, or released under honorable conditions from active
293 service in, the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, or (2) with a
294 qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who has received a
295 discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in
296 the armed forces] has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103,
297 as amended by this act.

298 Sec. 7. Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 10-5 of the general
299 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
300 (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

301 (a) The Commissioner of Education shall, in accordance with this
302 section, issue a state high school diploma to any person (1) who
303 successfully completes an examination approved by the commissioner,
304 or (2) who (A) is seventeen years of age and has been officially
305 withdrawn from school in accordance with the provisions of section 10-
306 184 or is eighteen years of age or older, and (B) presents to the
307 commissioner evidence demonstrating educational qualifications which

308 the commissioner deems equivalent to those required for graduation
309 from a public high school. Application for such a diploma shall be made
310 in the manner and form prescribed by the commissioner provided, at
311 the time of application to take the examination described in subdivision
312 (1) of this subsection, the applicant is seventeen years of age or older,
313 has been officially withdrawn from school, in accordance with section
314 10-184, for at least six months and has been advised, in such manner as
315 may be prescribed by the commissioner, of the other options for high
316 school completion and other available educational programs. For good
317 cause shown, the commissioner may allow a person who is sixteen years
318 of age to apply to take the examination, provided the commissioner may
319 not issue a state high school diploma to such person until the person has
320 attained seventeen years of age.

321 (b) Application to take or retake the examination described in
322 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section shall be accompanied by
323 a money order or certified check in the nonrefundable amount of
324 thirteen dollars. This amount shall include the fee for the state high
325 school diploma.

326 (c) No (1) veteran, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this
327 act, (2) member of the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, as
328 amended by this act, [(3) person with a qualifying condition, as defined
329 in said section, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or
330 dishonorable from active service in the armed forces,] or [(4)] (3) person
331 under twenty-one years of age shall be required to pay the fees
332 described in subsection (b) of this section. The commissioner may waive
333 any fee described in subsection (b) of this section upon the submission
334 of evidence indicating an inability to pay.

335 Sec. 8. Subsection (i) of section 10-221a of the general statutes is
336 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
337 *1, 2021*):

338 (i) (1) A local or regional board of education may award a diploma to
339 a veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, as amended by

340 this act, [or a person with a qualifying condition, as defined in said
341 section, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or
342 dishonorable from active service in the armed forces,] which veteran or
343 person served during World War II or the Korean hostilities, as
344 described in section 51-49h, or during the Vietnam Era, as defined in
345 section 27-103, as amended by this act, withdrew from high school prior
346 to graduation in order to serve in the armed forces of the United States
347 and did not receive a diploma as a consequence of such service.

348 (2) A local or regional board of education may award a diploma to
349 any person who (A) withdrew from high school prior to graduation to
350 work in a job that assisted the war effort during World War II, December
351 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946, inclusive, (B) did not receive a diploma as
352 a consequence of such work, and (C) has been a resident of the state for
353 at least fifty consecutive years.

354 Sec. 9. Subsection (d) of section 10a-77 of the general statutes is
355 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
356 *1, 2021*):

357 (d) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition at any of
358 the regional community-technical colleges (1) for any dependent child
359 of a person whom the armed forces of the United States has declared to
360 be missing in action or to have been a prisoner of war while serving in
361 such armed forces after January 1, 1960, which child has been accepted
362 for admission to such institution and is a resident of the state at the time
363 such child is accepted for admission to such institution, (2) subject to the
364 provisions of subsection (e) of this section, for any [(A)] veteran, as
365 defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, who performed
366 service in time of war, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this
367 act, [or (B) person with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section,
368 who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable
369 from active service in the armed forces and who performed service in
370 time of war,] except that for purposes of this subsection, "service in time
371 of war" shall not include time spent in attendance at a military service
372 academy, which veteran [or person] has been accepted for admission to

373 such institution and is domiciled in this state at the time such veteran
374 [or person] is accepted for admission to such institution, (3) for any
375 resident of the state sixty-two years of age or older, provided, at the end
376 of the regular registration period, there are enrolled in the course a
377 sufficient number of students other than those residents eligible for
378 waivers pursuant to this subdivision to offer the course in which such
379 resident intends to enroll and there is space available in such course
380 after accommodating all such students, (4) for any student attending the
381 Connecticut State Police Academy who is enrolled in a law enforcement
382 program at said academy offered in coordination with a regional
383 community-technical college which accredits courses taken in such
384 program, (5) for any active member of the Connecticut Army or Air
385 National Guard who (A) has been certified by the Adjutant General or
386 such Adjutant General's designee as a member in good standing of the
387 guard, and (B) is enrolled or accepted for admission to such institution
388 on a full-time or part-time basis in an undergraduate degree-granting
389 program, (6) for any dependent child of a (A) police officer, as defined
390 in section 7-294a, or supernumerary or auxiliary police officer, (B)
391 firefighter, as defined in section 7-323j, or member of a volunteer fire
392 company, (C) municipal employee, or (D) state employee, as defined in
393 section 5-154, killed in the line of duty, (7) for any resident of the state
394 who is a dependent child or surviving spouse of a specified terrorist
395 victim who was a resident of this state, (8) for any dependent child of a
396 resident of the state who was killed in a multivehicle crash at or near the
397 intersection of Routes 44 and 10 and Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005,
398 and (9) for any resident of the state who is a dependent child or
399 surviving spouse of a person who was killed in action while performing
400 active military duty with the armed forces of the United States on or
401 after September 11, 2001, and who was a resident of this state. If any
402 person who receives a tuition waiver in accordance with the provisions
403 of this subsection also receives educational reimbursement from an
404 employer, such waiver shall be reduced by the amount of such
405 educational reimbursement. Veterans [and persons described in
406 subdivision (2) of this subsection] and members of the National Guard
407 described in subdivision (5) of this subsection shall be given the same

408 status as students not receiving tuition waivers in registering for courses
409 at regional community-technical colleges. Notwithstanding the
410 provisions of section 10a-30, as used in this subsection, "domiciled in
411 this state" includes domicile for less than one year.

412 Sec. 10. Subsection (d) of section 10a-99 of the general statutes is
413 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
414 *1, 2021*):

415 (d) Said board shall waive the payment of tuition fees at the
416 Connecticut State University System (1) for any dependent child of a
417 person whom the armed forces of the United States has declared to be
418 missing in action or to have been a prisoner of war while serving in such
419 armed forces after January 1, 1960, which child has been accepted for
420 admission to such institution and is a resident of the state at the time
421 such child is accepted for admission to such institution, (2) subject to the
422 provisions of subsection (e) of this section, for any [(A)] veteran, as
423 defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, who performed
424 service in time of war, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this
425 act, [or (B) person with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section,
426 who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable
427 from active service in the armed forces and who performed service in
428 time of war.] except that for purposes of this subsection, "service in time
429 of war" shall not include time spent in attendance at a military service
430 academy, which veteran [or person] has been accepted for admission to
431 such institution and is domiciled in this state at the time such veteran
432 [or person] is accepted for admission to such institution, (3) for any
433 resident of the state sixty-two years of age or older who has been
434 accepted for admission to such institution, provided (A) such resident
435 is enrolled in a degree-granting program, or (B) at the end of the regular
436 registration period, there are enrolled in the course a sufficient number
437 of students other than those residents eligible for waivers pursuant to
438 this subdivision to offer the course in which such resident intends to
439 enroll and there is space available in such course after accommodating
440 all such students, (4) for any student attending the Connecticut Police
441 Academy who is enrolled in a law enforcement program at said

442 academy offered in coordination with the university which accredits
443 courses taken in such program, (5) for any active member of the
444 Connecticut Army or Air National Guard who (A) has been certified by
445 the Adjutant General or such Adjutant General's designee as a member
446 in good standing of the guard, and (B) is enrolled or accepted for
447 admission to such institution on a full-time or part-time basis in an
448 undergraduate or graduate degree-granting program, (6) for any
449 dependent child of a (A) police officer, as defined in section 7-294a, or
450 supernumerary or auxiliary police officer, (B) firefighter, as defined in
451 section 7-323j, or member of a volunteer fire company, (C) municipal
452 employee, or (D) state employee, as defined in section 5-154, killed in
453 the line of duty, (7) for any resident of this state who is a dependent
454 child or surviving spouse of a specified terrorist victim who was a
455 resident of the state, (8) for any dependent child of a resident of the state
456 who was killed in a multivehicle crash at or near the intersection of
457 Routes 44 and 10 and Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005, and (9) for
458 any resident of the state who is a dependent child or surviving spouse
459 of a person who was killed in action while performing active military
460 duty with the armed forces of the United States on or after September
461 11, 2001, and who was a resident of this state. If any person who receives
462 a tuition waiver in accordance with the provisions of this subsection also
463 receives educational reimbursement from an employer, such waiver
464 shall be reduced by the amount of such educational reimbursement.
465 Veterans [and persons described in subdivision (2) of this subsection]
466 and members of the National Guard described in subdivision (5) of this
467 subsection shall be given the same status as students not receiving
468 tuition waivers in registering for courses at Connecticut state
469 universities. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10a-30, as used
470 in this subsection, "domiciled in this state" includes domicile for less
471 than one year.

472 Sec. 11. Subsection (e) of section 10a-105 of the general statutes is
473 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
474 *1, 2021*):

475 (e) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition fees at

476 The University of Connecticut (1) for any dependent child of a person
477 whom the armed forces of the United States has declared to be missing
478 in action or to have been a prisoner of war while serving in such armed
479 forces after January 1, 1960, which child has been accepted for admission
480 to The University of Connecticut and is a resident of the state at the time
481 such child is accepted for admission to said institution, (2) subject to the
482 provisions of subsection (f) of this section, for any [(A)] veteran, as
483 defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, who performed
484 service in time of war, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this
485 act, [or (B) person with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section,
486 who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable
487 from active service in the armed forces and who performed service in
488 time of war,] except that for purposes of this subsection, "service in time
489 of war" shall not include time spent in attendance at a military service
490 academy, which veteran [or person] has been accepted for admission to
491 said institution and is domiciled in this state at the time such veteran [or
492 person] is accepted for admission to said institution, (3) for any resident
493 of the state sixty-two years of age or older who has been accepted for
494 admission to said institution, provided (A) such resident is enrolled in
495 a degree-granting program, or (B) at the end of the regular registration
496 period, there are enrolled in the course a sufficient number of students
497 other than those residents eligible for waivers pursuant to this
498 subdivision to offer the course in which such resident intends to enroll
499 and there is space available in such course after accommodating all such
500 students, (4) for any active member of the Connecticut Army or Air
501 National Guard who (A) has been certified by the Adjutant General or
502 such Adjutant General's designee as a member in good standing of the
503 guard, and (B) is enrolled or accepted for admission to said institution
504 on a full-time or part-time basis in an undergraduate or graduate
505 degree-granting program, (5) for any dependent child of a (A) police
506 officer, as defined in section 7-294a, or supernumerary or auxiliary
507 police officer, (B) firefighter, as defined in section 7-323j, or member of
508 a volunteer fire company, (C) municipal employee, or (D) state
509 employee, as defined in section 5-154, killed in the line of duty, (6) for
510 any resident of the state who is the dependent child or surviving spouse

511 of a specified terrorist victim who was a resident of the state, (7) for any
512 dependent child of a resident of the state who was killed in a
513 multivehicle crash at or near the intersection of Routes 44 and 10 and
514 Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005, and (8) for any resident of the state
515 who is a dependent child or surviving spouse of a person who was
516 killed in action while performing active military duty with the armed
517 forces of the United States on or after September 11, 2001, and who was
518 a resident of this state. If any person who receives a tuition waiver in
519 accordance with the provisions of this subsection also receives
520 educational reimbursement from an employer, such waiver shall be
521 reduced by the amount of such educational reimbursement. Veterans
522 [and persons described in subdivision (2) of this subsection] and
523 members of the National Guard described in subdivision (4) of this
524 subsection shall be given the same status as students not receiving
525 tuition waivers in registering for courses at The University of
526 Connecticut. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10a-30, as used
527 in this subsection, "domiciled in this state" includes domicile for less
528 than one year.

529 Sec. 12. Subsection (a) of section 10a-149d of the general statutes is
530 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
531 *1, 2021*):

532 (a) An institution of higher education shall award college credit for
533 military occupational specialty training to a member of the armed forces
534 or the National Guard or a veteran who enrolls at such institution and
535 has experience in a military occupation recognized by such institution
536 as substituting for or meeting the requirements of a particular course of
537 study. For the purposes of this section, "veteran" [means any person
538 who was discharged or released under conditions other than
539 dishonorable from active service in the armed forces] and "armed
540 forces" [has] have the same [meaning] meanings as provided in section
541 27-103, as amended by this act.

542 Sec. 13. Subsection (a) of section 10a-161d of the general statutes is
543 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*

544 1, 2021):

545 (a) As used in this section:

546 (1) "Eligible student without legal immigration status" means any
547 person who (A) is entitled to classification as an in-state student for
548 tuition purposes pursuant to subdivision (9) of section 10a-29, (B) was
549 thirty years of age or younger on June 15, 2012, (C) was sixteen years of
550 age or younger when he or she arrived in the United States and has
551 continuously resided in the United States since such arrival, and (D) has
552 not been convicted of a felony in this state or in another state;

553 (2) "Eligible veteran without legal immigration status" means any
554 [person who (A) is an honorably discharged veteran of the armed forces
555 of the United States] veteran, as defined in section 27-103, as amended
556 by this act, without legal immigration status, who (B) was thirty years
557 of age or younger on June 15, 2012, (C) was fifteen years of age or
558 younger when he or she arrived in the United States and has
559 continuously resided in the United States since such arrival, and (D) has
560 not been convicted of a felony in this state or in another state;

561 (3) "Institutional financial aid" means funds set aside from the
562 anticipated tuition revenue of an institution of higher education for the
563 purposes of providing tuition waivers, tuition remissions, grants for
564 educational expenses and student employment for full-time or part-
565 time students who are enrolled in a degree-granting program or a
566 precollege remedial program and who demonstrate substantial
567 financial need; and

568 (4) "Public institution of higher education" means those institutions
569 of higher education identified in subdivisions (1) and (2) of section 10a-
570 1.

571 Sec. 14. Subdivision (19) of section 12-81 of the general statutes is
572 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
573 *1, 2021, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1,*
574 *2021*):

575 (19) Subject to the provisions of sections 12-89, 12-90 and 12-95,
576 property to the amount of one thousand dollars belonging to, or held in
577 trust for, (A) any resident of this state who is a veteran, as defined in
578 section 27-103, as amended by this act, who was a member of the armed
579 forces in service in time of war, (B) any resident of this state who was a
580 citizen of the United States at the time of his enlistment and who was in
581 the military or naval service of a government allied or associated with
582 that of the United States during the Second World War and received an
583 honorable discharge therefrom, (C) any resident of this state who served
584 during the Second World War as a member of any armed force of any
585 government signatory to the United Nations Declaration of January 1,
586 1942, and participated in armed conflict with an enemy of the United
587 States and who has been a citizen of the United States for at least ten
588 years and presents satisfactory evidence of such service, (D) any
589 resident of this state who served as a member of the crew of a merchant
590 vessel during the Second World War and is qualified with respect to
591 such service as a member of the group known as the "American
592 Merchant Marine in ocean-going service during the period of armed
593 conflict, December 7, 1941, to August 15, 1945", members of which are
594 deemed to be eligible for certain veterans benefits under a
595 determination in the United States Department of Defense, as recorded
596 in the Federal Register of February 1, 1988, provided such resident has
597 received an armed forces discharge certificate from the Department of
598 Defense on the basis of such service, (E) any member of the armed forces
599 who was in service in time of war and is still in the service and by reason
600 of continuous service has not as yet received a discharge, (F) any person
601 who is retired from the armed forces after thirty years of service because
602 he has reached the age limit prescribed by law or because he suffers
603 from mental or physical disability, [(G) any person with a qualifying
604 condition who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or
605 dishonorable from active service in the armed forces and who was in
606 service in time of war,] or [(H)] (G) any person who is serving in the
607 armed services in time of war; or lacking said amount of property in his
608 own name, so much of the property belonging to, or held in trust for, his
609 spouse, who is domiciled with him, as is necessary to equal said amount.

610 For the purposes of this subdivision, "veteran", "armed forces" [] and
611 "service in time of war" [and "qualifying condition"] have the same
612 meanings as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act;

613 Sec. 15. Subdivision (22) of section 12-81 of the general statutes is
614 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
615 *1, 2021, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1,*
616 *2021*):

617 (22) Subject to the provisions of sections 12-89, 12-90 and 12-95,
618 property to the amount of one thousand dollars belonging to, or held in
619 trust for, any surviving spouse while such person remains a widow or
620 widower, or a minor child or both, residing in this state, of [(A)] one
621 who has served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air
622 Force of the United States, or any citizen of the United States who served
623 in the military or naval service of a government allied or associated with
624 the United States, as provided by subdivision (19) of this section, and
625 who has died either during his or her term of service or after [receiving
626 an honorable discharge therefrom] becoming a veteran, as defined in
627 section 27-103, as amended by this act, provided such amount shall be
628 three thousand dollars if death was due to service and occurred while
629 on active duty; [or (B) one with a qualifying condition, as defined in
630 section 27-103, who has served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast
631 Guard or Air Force of the United States and who has died after receiving
632 a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable therefrom;]

633 Sec. 16. Subdivision (25) of section 12-81 of the general statutes is
634 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
635 *1, 2021, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1,*
636 *2021*):

637 (25) Subject to the provisions of sections 12-89, 12-90 and 12-95,
638 property to the amount of one thousand dollars belonging to, or held in
639 trust for, a sole surviving parent, while such parent remains a widow or
640 widower, resident of this state, of one [(A)] who has left no widow or
641 widower, or whose widow or widower has remarried or died, and who

642 has served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air Force
643 of the United States as provided by subdivision (19) of this section and
644 has died during his or her term of service or after [receiving an
645 honorable discharge therefrom] becoming a veteran, as defined in
646 section 27-103, as amended by this act, provided property belonging to,
647 or held in trust for, such parent of more than one serviceman or
648 servicewoman who has left no widow or widower, or whose widow or
649 widower has remarried or died, and who has served in the Army, Navy,
650 Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air Force of the United States as
651 provided in subdivision (19) of this section and has died during his or
652 her term of service shall be subject to an exemption of one thousand
653 dollars for each such serviceman or servicewoman; [or (B) with a
654 qualifying condition, as defined in section 27-103, who has left no
655 widow or widower, or whose widow or widower has remarried or died,
656 and who has served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or
657 Air Force of the United States and has died after receiving a discharge
658 other than bad conduct or dishonorable therefrom;]

659 Sec. 17. Subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 12-81jj of the
660 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
661 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021, and applicable to assessment years*
662 *commencing on or after October 1, 2021*):

663 (2) Any such veteran submitting a claim for such exemption shall be
664 required to file an application, on a form prepared for such purpose by
665 the assessor, not later than the assessment date with respect to which
666 such exemption is claimed, which application shall include (A) a
667 certified copy of such veteran's military discharge document, as defined
668 in section 1-219, or (B) in the absence of such certified copy, at least two
669 affidavits of disinterested persons showing that the claimant [was
670 honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions
671 from active service in, the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103] is
672 a veteran as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, provided
673 the assessor may further require such claimant to be examined by such
674 assessor under oath concerning such facts. Each such application shall
675 include a copy of such veteran's federal income tax return, or in the

676 event such a return is not filed such evidence related to income as may
677 be required by the assessor, for the tax year of such veteran ending
678 immediately prior to the assessment date with respect to which such
679 exemption is claimed. Such town clerk shall record each such affidavit
680 in full and shall list the name of such veteran, and such service shall be
681 performed by such town clerk without remuneration. No assessor,
682 board of assessment appeals or other official shall allow any such claim
683 for exemption unless evidence as specified in this section has been filed
684 in the office of such town clerk. Any such veteran who has filed for such
685 exemption and received approval for the first time shall be required to
686 file for such exemption biennially thereafter, subject to the provisions of
687 subsection (c) of this section.

688 Sec. 18. Section 12-93 of the general statutes is repealed and the
689 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021, and*
690 *applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2021*):

691 Any person who claims an exemption from taxation under the
692 provisions of section 12-81, as amended by this act, or 12-82 by reason
693 of service in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air Force
694 of the United States shall give notice to the town clerk of the town in
695 which he resides that he is entitled to such exemption. Any person who
696 has performed such service may establish his right to such exemption
697 by exhibiting to the town clerk an honorable discharge, or a certified
698 copy thereof, from such service or, in the absence of such discharge or
699 copy, by appearing before the assessors for an examination under oath,
700 supported by two affidavits of disinterested persons, showing that the
701 claimant [so served and received an honorable discharge] is a veteran,
702 as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, or is serving or, if
703 he is unable to appear by reason of such service, he may establish such
704 right, until such time as he appears personally and exhibits his discharge
705 or copy, by forwarding to the town clerk annually a written statement,
706 signed by the commanding officer of his unit, ship or station or by some
707 other appropriate officer, or where such claimant is currently serving in
708 an active theater of war or hostilities, by the presentation of a notarized
709 statement of a parent, guardian, spouse or legal representative of such

710 claimant, stating that he is personally serving and is unable to appear in
711 person by reason of such service, which statement shall be received
712 before the assessment day of the town wherein the exemption is
713 claimed. The assessors shall report to the town clerk all claims so
714 established. Any person claiming exemption by reason of the service of
715 a relative as a soldier, sailor, marine or member of the Coast Guard or
716 Air Force may establish his right thereto by at least two affidavits of
717 disinterested persons showing the service of such relative, his honorable
718 discharge or death in service, and the relationship of the claimant to
719 him; and the assessors may further require such person to be examined
720 by them under oath concerning such facts. The town clerk of the town
721 where the honorable discharge or certified copy thereof and each
722 affidavit is originally presented for record shall record such discharge
723 or certified copy or affidavits thereof in full and shall list the names of
724 such claimants and such service shall be performed by the town clerk
725 without remuneration therefor. Thereafter if any person entitled to such
726 exemption changes his legal residence, the town clerk in the town of
727 former residence and in which such honorable discharge or certified
728 copy thereof or any such affidavit in respect to such person was
729 originally presented for record shall, upon request and payment of a fee
730 by such person to said town of former residence in an amount
731 determined by the town treasurer as necessary to cover the cost of such
732 procedure, prepare and mail to the town in which such person resides,
733 a copy of the record of such discharge or certified copy thereof or
734 affidavits, or he may establish his right to such exemption in the town
735 in which he resides by exhibiting to the town clerk thereof the original
736 discharge or a certified copy thereof or such affidavits. Said clerk shall
737 take therefrom sufficient data to satisfy the exemption requirements of
738 the general statutes and shall record the same and shall note the town
739 where the original complete recording of discharge papers was made.
740 No board of assessors or board of assessment appeals or other official
741 shall allow any such claim for exemption unless evidence as herein
742 specified has been filed in the office of the town clerk, provided, if any
743 claim for exemption has been allowed by any board of assessors or
744 board of assessment appeals prior to July 1, 1923, the provisions of this

745 section shall not apply to such claim. Each claim granted prior to July 1,
746 1923, shall be recorded with those presented subsequent thereto, and a
747 list of such names, alphabetically arranged, shall be furnished the
748 assessors by the town clerk.

749 Sec. 19. Subsection (a) of section 12-217pp of the general statutes is
750 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
751 *1, 2021*):

752 (a) As used in this section:

753 (1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Economic and
754 Community Development;

755 (2) "Control", with respect to a corporation, means ownership,
756 directly or indirectly, of stock possessing fifty per cent or more of the
757 total combined voting power of all classes of the stock of such
758 corporation entitled to vote. "Control", with respect to a trust, means
759 ownership, directly or indirectly, of fifty per cent or more of the
760 beneficial interest in the principal or income of such trust. The
761 ownership of stock in a corporation, of a capital or profits interest in a
762 partnership, limited liability company or association or of a beneficial
763 interest in a trust shall be determined in accordance with the rules for
764 constructive ownership of stock provided in Section 267(c) of the
765 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding
766 internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time
767 amended, other than paragraph (3) of said Section 267(c);

768 (3) "Full-time job" means a job in which an employee is required to
769 work at least thirty-five hours per week for not less than forty-eight
770 weeks in a calendar year. "Full-time job" does not include a temporary
771 or seasonal job;

772 (4) "Income year" means, with respect to entities subject to the
773 insurance premiums tax under chapter 207, the corporation business tax
774 under this chapter, the utility companies tax under chapter 212 or the
775 income tax under chapter 229, the income year as determined under

776 each of said chapters, as the case may be;

777 (5) "New employee" means a person who resides in this state and is
778 hired by a taxpayer on or after January 1, 2012, and prior to January 1,
779 2014, to fill a new job. "New employee" does not include a person who
780 was employed in this state by a related person with respect to a taxpayer
781 during the prior twelve months;

782 (6) "New job" means a job that did not exist in this state prior to a
783 taxpayer's application to the commissioner for certification under this
784 section for a job expansion tax credit, is filled by a new, qualifying or
785 veteran employee, and (A) is a full-time job, or (B) in the case of a
786 qualifying employee under subparagraph (B) of subdivision (7) of this
787 subsection, is a job in which an employee is required to work at least
788 twenty hours per week for not less than forty-eight weeks in a calendar
789 year;

790 (7) "Qualifying employee" means a new employee who, at the time of
791 hiring by the taxpayer:

792 (A) (i) Is receiving unemployment compensation, or (ii) has
793 exhausted unemployment compensation benefits and has not had an
794 intervening full-time job; or

795 (B) Is (i) receiving vocational rehabilitation services from the
796 Department of Aging and Disability Services, (ii) receiving employment
797 services from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services,
798 or (iii) participating in employment opportunities and day services, as
799 defined in section 17a-226, operated or funded by the Department of
800 Developmental Services;

801 (8) "Related person" means (A) a corporation, limited liability
802 company, partnership, association or trust controlled by the taxpayer,
803 (B) an individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership,
804 association or trust that is in control of the taxpayer, (C) a corporation,
805 limited liability company, partnership, association or trust controlled by
806 an individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership,

807 association or trust that is in control of the taxpayer, or (D) a member of
808 the same controlled group as the taxpayer;

809 (9) "Taxpayer" means a person that (A) has been in business for at
810 least twelve consecutive months prior to the date of the taxpayer's
811 application to the commissioner for certification under this section for a
812 job expansion tax credit, and (B) is subject to tax under this chapter or
813 chapter 207, 212 or 229; and

814 (10) "Veteran employee" means a new employee who, at the time of
815 hiring by the taxpayer, is (A) a member of [, was honorably discharged
816 from or released under honorable conditions from active service in] the
817 armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, or (B)
818 a veteran, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act.

819 Sec. 20. Subparagraph (D) of subdivision (63) of section 12-412 of the
820 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
821 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

822 (D) The Department of Revenue Services may issue a farmer tax
823 exemption permit to a farmer, notwithstanding the fact that, in the
824 farmer's immediately preceding taxable year, such farmer's gross
825 income from agricultural production engaged in as a trade or business
826 may have been less than two thousand five hundred dollars, provided
827 (i) such farmer purchased, during such farmer's current or immediately
828 preceding taxable year, an agricultural trade or business from a seller
829 who was issued a farmer tax exemption permit by such department at
830 the time of such purchase and such agricultural production shall be
831 carried on as a trade or business by such purchaser during the period
832 commencing upon the purchase and ending two years after the date of
833 purchase. Such purchaser shall be liable for the tax otherwise imposed,
834 during the period commencing upon such purchase and ending two
835 years after the date of purchase, if such agricultural production is not
836 carried on as a trade or business by such purchaser during the period
837 commencing upon such purchase and ending two years after the date
838 of purchase; or (ii) such farmer is a veteran who has never owned or

839 leased property for the purpose of commercial agricultural production
840 or who has owned or leased property for the purpose of commercial
841 agricultural production for less than two years. Such veteran farmer
842 shall be liable for the tax otherwise imposed, during the period
843 commencing upon issuance of a farmer tax exemption permit pursuant
844 to this subparagraph and ending two years after the date of such
845 issuance, if such agricultural production is not carried on as a trade or
846 business by such veteran farmer during the period commencing upon
847 such issuance and ending two years after the date of such issuance. As
848 used in this subparagraph, "veteran" [means any person (1) honorably
849 discharged from, or released under honorable conditions from active
850 service in, the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, or (2) with a
851 qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who has received a
852 discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in
853 the armed forces] has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103,
854 as amended by this act.

855 Sec. 21. Subsection (a) of section 14-20b of the general statutes is
856 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
857 *1, 2021*):

858 (a) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, at the request of any veteran
859 or member of the armed forces or the surviving spouse of such veteran
860 or member, shall register any motor vehicle owned or leased for a period
861 of at least one year by such person and shall issue a special certificate of
862 registration and a set of number plates for each such motor vehicle,
863 including a special certificate of registration and a set of number plates
864 for any motor vehicle used exclusively for farming purposes by any
865 veteran or member of the armed forces, or the surviving spouse of such
866 veteran or member, who is engaged in agricultural production as a trade
867 or business. The plates shall expire and be renewed as provided in
868 section 14-22. The commissioner shall charge a fee for such plates, which
869 fee shall cover the entire cost of making such plates and shall be in
870 addition to the fee for registration of such motor vehicle. As used in this
871 subsection, ["member of the armed forces" has the same meaning as
872 provided in section 27-103 and "veteran" means any person (1)

873 honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions
874 from active service in, the armed forces, or (2) with a qualifying
875 condition, as defined in section 27-103, who has received a discharge
876 other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in the armed
877 forces] "veteran" and "armed forces" have the same meanings as
878 provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act.

879 Sec. 22. Subdivision (3) of subsection (e) of section 14-36 of the general
880 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
881 (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

882 (3) Before granting a license to any applicant who has not previously
883 held a Connecticut motor vehicle operator's license, or who has not
884 operated a motor vehicle during the preceding two years, the
885 commissioner shall require the applicant to demonstrate personally to
886 the commissioner, a deputy or a motor vehicle inspector or an agent of
887 the commissioner, in such manner as the commissioner directs, that the
888 applicant is a proper person to operate motor vehicles of the class for
889 which such applicant has applied, has sufficient knowledge of the
890 mechanism of the motor vehicles to ensure their safe operation by him
891 or her and has satisfactory knowledge of the laws concerning motor
892 vehicles and the rules of the road. The knowledge test of an applicant
893 for a class D motor vehicle operator's license may be administered in
894 such form as the commissioner deems appropriate, including audio,
895 electronic or written testing. Such knowledge test shall be administered
896 in English, Spanish or any language spoken at home by at least one per
897 cent of the state's population, according to statistics prepared by the
898 United States Census Bureau, based on the most recent decennial
899 census. Each such knowledge test shall include a question concerning
900 highway work zone safety and the responsibilities of an operator of a
901 motor vehicle under section 14-212d. Each such knowledge test shall
902 include not less than one question concerning distracted driving, the use
903 of mobile telephones and electronic devices by motor vehicle operators
904 or the responsibilities of motor vehicle operators under section 14-296aa.
905 If any such applicant has held a license from a state, territory or
906 possession of the United States where a similar examination is required,

907 the commissioner may waive part or all of the examination. If any such
908 applicant is (A) a veteran who applies not later than two years after the
909 date of discharge from the military and who, prior to such discharge,
910 held a military operator's license for motor vehicles of the same class as
911 that for which such applicant has applied, or (B) a member of the armed
912 forces or the National Guard who currently holds a military operator's
913 license for motor vehicles of the same class as that for which such
914 applicant has applied, the commissioner shall waive all of the
915 examination, except in the case of commercial motor vehicle licenses,
916 the commissioner shall only waive the driving skills test for such
917 applicant who meets the conditions set forth in 49 CFR 383.77. For the
918 purposes of this subsection, "veteran" [means any person who was
919 discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable from
920 active service in the armed forces] and "armed forces" [has] have the
921 same [meaning] meanings as provided in section 27-103, as amended by
922 this act. When the commissioner is satisfied as to the ability and
923 competency of any applicant, the commissioner may issue to such
924 applicant a license, either unlimited or containing such limitations as the
925 commissioner deems advisable, and specifying the class of motor
926 vehicles which the licensee is eligible to operate.

927 Sec. 23. Subsections (e) and (f) of section 14-36h of the general statutes
928 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
929 *October 1, 2021*):

930 (e) Any person who is a veteran may submit a request to the
931 Department of Veterans Affairs to have his or her status as a veteran
932 contained on his or her motor vehicle operator's license or identity card.
933 Said department shall, not later than thirty days after receipt of such
934 request, verify whether such person is a veteran and, if so, notify the
935 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles of such request and verification. The
936 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall indicate such person's status as a
937 veteran on any motor vehicle operator's license or identity card issued
938 to such person upon original issuance or renewal of a motor vehicle
939 operator's license or identity card or upon issuance of a duplicate motor
940 vehicle operator's license or identity card.

941 (f) As used in this section: (1) "Full legal name" means the most
942 complete version of the name that appears on a person's certificate of
943 birth, official passport or other document or documents accepted by the
944 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to verify the person's identity, unless
945 the person presents a marriage license or certificate, a certificate of civil
946 union, a divorce decree or an order of a court of competent jurisdiction
947 pertaining to a permanent change of the person's name; and (2)
948 "veteran" [means (A) any person honorably discharged from, or
949 released under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed
950 forces, as defined] has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103,
951 as amended by this act, [(B)] or any former member of the armed forces
952 who is entitled to retirement pay under 10 USC Chapter 1223, as
953 amended from time to time, or, but for age, would be so entitled. [, or
954 (C) any person with a qualifying condition, as defined in section 27-103,
955 who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable
956 from active service in the armed forces.]

957 Sec. 24. Subsection (c) of section 14-50 of the general statutes is
958 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
959 *1, 2021*):

960 (c) The commissioner shall waive any operator's license or
961 registration fee, including any renewal fee, in the case of any person in
962 the active service of the armed forces of the United States who was a
963 legal resident of Connecticut at the time of his or her induction; and for
964 one licensing period to any person [(1) honorably separated from such
965 service, or (2) with a qualifying condition, as defined in section 27-103,
966 who has separated from such service other than with a bad conduct
967 characterization or dishonorably] who is a veteran, as defined in section
968 27-103, as amended by this act, which person applies for such operator's
969 license or registration within two years following the date of separation
970 and was a legal resident of Connecticut at the time of his or her
971 induction. The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance
972 with chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this subsection.

973 Sec. 25. Section 14-254 of the general statutes is repealed and the

974 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

975 "Disabled veteran", as used in this section, means (1) [(A)] any
976 veteran, as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, who
977 performed service in time of war, as defined in section 27-103, as
978 amended by this act, [or (B) any person with a qualifying condition, as
979 defined in said section, who has received a discharge other than bad
980 conduct or dishonorable from active service in the armed forces, as
981 defined in said section, and who performed service in time of war,] and
982 (2) (A) one or both of whose legs or arms or parts thereof have been
983 amputated or the use of which has been lost, (B) who is blind, paraplegic
984 or hemiplegic, or (C) who has traumatic brain injury, any such disability
985 described in subdivision (2) of this section being certified as service-
986 connected by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The
987 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, upon application of any disabled
988 veteran accompanied by such certificate of United States Department of
989 Veterans Affairs, shall issue without charge a special number plate or
990 set of plates in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) of
991 section 14-21b to be attached to a passenger motor vehicle owned or
992 operated by such disabled veteran and an identification card to be used
993 in connection therewith. The card shall identify the disabled veteran and
994 the motor vehicle and shall state that such disabled veteran is qualified
995 to receive the card, that the card, plate or plates shall be returned to the
996 commissioner if the registration of the motor vehicle is cancelled or
997 transferred and that the card is for the exclusive use of the disabled
998 veteran to whom it is issued, is not transferable and will be revoked if
999 presented by any other person or if any privilege granted under this
1000 section is abused. If not so revoked, the card shall be renewable every
1001 four years at the time of registration of motor vehicles. No penalty shall
1002 be imposed for the overtime parking of any motor vehicle bearing a
1003 number plate issued under this section when it has been so parked by
1004 the disabled veteran to whom the plate and an identification card were
1005 issued or by any person operating such vehicle when accompanied by
1006 such disabled veteran, provided the length of time for which such
1007 vehicle may remain parked at any one location shall not exceed twenty-

1008 four hours. The surviving spouse of a disabled veteran issued such
1009 special registration may retain any such registration and number plates
1010 without charge for his or her lifetime or until such time as he or she
1011 remarries.

1012 Sec. 26. Subsection (a) of section 17b-28i of the general statutes is
1013 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
1014 *1, 2021*):

1015 (a) To the extent permissible by federal law, the Commissioner of
1016 Social Services shall disregard federal Aid and Attendance pension
1017 benefits granted to a veteran or the surviving spouse of such veteran
1018 when determining income eligibility for the state's Medicare savings,
1019 medical assistance and energy assistance programs administered under
1020 section 17b-2. As used in this subsection, "veteran" [means any person
1021 (1) honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions
1022 from active service in, the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, or
1023 (2) with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who has
1024 received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active
1025 service in the armed forces] has the same meaning as provided in section
1026 27-103, as amended by this act.

1027 Sec. 27. Section 19a-179 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1028 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

1029 (a) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with
1030 chapter 54, concerning (1) the methods and conditions for licensure and
1031 certification of the operations, facilities and equipment enumerated in
1032 section 19a-177, (2) complaint procedures for the public and any
1033 emergency medical service organization, and (3) exemption of members
1034 of the armed forces or the National Guard or veterans with appropriate
1035 military training, including, but not limited to, members of the armed
1036 forces or the National Guard or veterans with a designation by the
1037 National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians and veterans or
1038 members of the United States Navy and Coast Guard, from training and
1039 testing requirements for emergency medical technician licensure and

1040 certification. Such regulations shall be in conformity with the policies
1041 and standards established by the commissioner. Such regulations shall
1042 require that, as an express condition of the purchase of any business
1043 holding a primary service area, the purchaser shall agree to abide by any
1044 performance standards to which the purchased business was obligated
1045 pursuant to its agreement with the municipality.

1046 (b) For the purposes of this section, "veteran" [means any person who
1047 was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable
1048 from active service in the armed forces] and "armed forces" [has] have
1049 the same [meaning] meanings as provided in section 27-103, as
1050 amended by this act.

1051 Sec. 28. Subsections (j) and (k) of section 20-206mm of the general
1052 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
1053 (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

1054 (j) The Commissioner of Public Health shall issue an emergency
1055 medical technician certification to an applicant who is a member of the
1056 armed forces or the National Guard or a veteran and who (1) presents
1057 evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that such applicant holds a
1058 current certification as a person entitled to perform similar services
1059 under a different designation by the National Registry of Emergency
1060 Medical Technicians, or (2) satisfies the regulations promulgated
1061 pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 19a-179, as
1062 amended by this act. Such applicant shall be exempt from any written
1063 or practical examination requirement for certification.

1064 (k) For the purposes of this section, "veteran" [means any person who
1065 was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable
1066 from active service in the armed forces] and "armed forces" [has] have
1067 the same [meaning] meanings as provided in section 27-103, as
1068 amended by this act.

1069 Sec. 29. Subsection (a) of section 27-108 of the general statutes is
1070 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
1071 *1, 2021*):

1072 (a) Any veteran who meets active military, naval or air service
1073 requirements, as described in 38 USC 101, as amended from time to
1074 time, may apply for admission to the Veterans Residential Services
1075 facility or Healthcare Center; and any such veteran who has no adequate
1076 means of support, and who, from disease, wounds or accident, needs
1077 medical or surgical care and treatment or who has become mentally ill,
1078 may be admitted to any hospital and receive necessary food, clothing,
1079 care and treatment therein, at the expense of the state, unless other funds
1080 or means of payment are available. Whenever a person is admitted to a
1081 hospital, such person shall be asked if he or she is a veteran. Before a
1082 hospital submits a bill for services pursuant to this section, such hospital
1083 shall take sufficient steps to determine that no other funds or means of
1084 payment are available to cover the cost of services rendered to the
1085 veteran. The Department of Veterans Affairs shall make available to
1086 hospitals a list of payment options and benefits available to cover
1087 hospital costs of veterans. As used in this section, "veteran" [means any
1088 person (1) honorably discharged from, or released under honorable
1089 conditions from active service in, the armed forces, as defined in section
1090 27-103, or (2) with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who
1091 has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from
1092 active service in the armed forces] has the same meaning as provided in
1093 section 27-103, as amended by this act.

1094 Sec. 30. Section 27-109 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1095 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

1096 Any hospital, upon request of the commissioner, shall furnish any
1097 veteran, determined by the commissioner to be entitled to admission
1098 thereto, necessary food, clothing, care and treatment therein at the
1099 expense of the state, unless other funds or means of payment are
1100 available, and such veteran shall have preference for admission into
1101 such hospital. As used in this section, "veteran" [means any person (1)
1102 honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions
1103 from active service in, the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, or
1104 (2) with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who has
1105 received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active

1106 service in the armed forces] has the same meaning as provided in section
1107 27-103, as amended by this act.

1108 Sec. 31. Section 27-118 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1109 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

1110 When any veteran dies, not having sufficient estate to pay the
1111 necessary expenses of the veteran's last sickness and burial, as
1112 determined by the commissioner after consultation with the probate
1113 court for the district in which the veteran resided, the state shall pay the
1114 sum of one thousand eight hundred dollars toward such funeral
1115 expenses, and the burial shall be in some cemetery or plot not used
1116 exclusively for the burial of the pauper dead, and the same amount shall
1117 be paid if the body is cremated, but no amount shall be paid for the
1118 expenses for burial or cremation unless claim therefor is made within
1119 one year from the date of death, except that in cases of death occurring
1120 abroad, such claim may be made within one year after the remains of
1121 such veteran have been interred in this country. No provision of this
1122 section shall prevent the payment of the sum above named for the burial
1123 of any person, otherwise entitled to the same, on account of such burial
1124 being made outside the limits of this state. Upon satisfactory proof by
1125 the person who has paid or provided for the funeral or burial expense
1126 to the commissioner of the identity of the deceased, the time and place
1127 of the deceased's death and burial and the approval thereof by the
1128 commissioner, said sum of one thousand eight hundred dollars shall be
1129 paid by the Comptroller to the person who has paid the funeral or burial
1130 expense or, upon assignment by such person, to the funeral director
1131 who has provided the funeral. Whenever the Comptroller has lawfully
1132 paid any sum toward the expenses of the burial of any deceased veteran
1133 and it afterwards appears that the deceased left any estate, the
1134 Comptroller may present a claim on behalf of the state against the estate
1135 of such deceased veteran for the sum so paid, and the claim shall be a
1136 preferred claim against such estate and shall be paid to the Treasurer of
1137 the state. The commissioner, upon the advice of the Attorney General,
1138 may make application for administration upon the estate of any such
1139 deceased veteran if no other person authorized by law makes such

1140 application within sixty days after such payment has been made by the
1141 Comptroller. As used in this section, "veteran" [means any person (1)
1142 honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions
1143 from active service in, the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, or
1144 (2) with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who has
1145 received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active
1146 service in the armed forces] has the same meaning as provided in section
1147 27-103, as amended by this act.

1148 Sec. 32. Subsection (a) of section 27-122b of the general statutes is
1149 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
1150 *1, 2021*):

1151 (a) As used in this section, "veteran" means any person [(1) honorably
1152 discharged from, or released under honorable conditions from, active
1153 service in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force or
1154 Coast Guard or any women's auxiliary branch thereof, organized
1155 pursuant to an Act of Congress; (2)] who is a veteran, as defined in
1156 section 27-103, as amended by this act, who (1) has completed at least
1157 twenty years of qualifying service, as described in and computed under
1158 10 USC Chapter 1223, as amended from time to time, in the Connecticut
1159 National Guard; or [(3) who] (2) was killed in action, or who died as a
1160 result of accident or illness sustained while performing active service, in
1161 the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force or Coast Guard
1162 or any women's auxiliary branch thereof, organized pursuant to an Act
1163 of Congress, or in the Connecticut National Guard.

1164 Sec. 33. Section 27-125 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1165 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

1166 Any veteran who is a citizen of this state and who, through disability
1167 or other causes incident to service in the armed forces in time of war, is
1168 in need of temporary financial assistance may be provided for by the
1169 commissioner by a method similar to that provided in section 27-82, the
1170 amount and continuance of such assistance to be discretionary with the
1171 commissioner. The widow, widower and each child, parent, brother or

1172 sister of any member of the armed forces, who died while in such active
1173 service, may be assisted by the commissioner if such person or persons
1174 are without sufficient means of support by reason of the death of such
1175 member of the armed forces. In carrying out his or her duties under the
1176 provisions of this section, the commissioner is directed to cooperate
1177 with such federal agencies as may aid in securing prompt and suitable
1178 treatment, care and relief of any such member of the armed forces or his
1179 or her dependents. The records of the agencies of the state shall be
1180 placed at the disposal of the commissioner and such agencies are
1181 directed to cooperate with and to assist the commissioner in carrying
1182 out his or her duties. As used in this section, "veteran" [means any
1183 person (1) honorably discharged from, or released under honorable
1184 conditions from active service in, the armed forces, as defined in section
1185 27-103, or (2) with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who
1186 has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from
1187 active service in the armed forces] has the same meaning as provided in
1188 section 27-103, as amended by this act.

1189 Sec. 34. Section 27-140 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1190 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

1191 All money so paid to and received by the American Legion shall be
1192 expended by it in furnishing temporary income; subsistence items such
1193 as food, wearing apparel, shelter and related expenses; medical or
1194 surgical aid or care or relief (1) to, or in bearing the funeral expenses of,
1195 soldiers, sailors or marines (A) (i) who performed service in time of war,
1196 as defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, in any branch of the
1197 military service of the United States, including the Connecticut National
1198 Guard, or (ii) who were engaged in any of the wars waged by the United
1199 States during said periods in the forces of any government associated
1200 with the United States, (B) [(i)] who [have been honorably discharged
1201 therefrom or honorably released from active service therein, or (ii) with
1202 a qualifying condition, as defined in section 27-103, who have received
1203 discharges other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service
1204 therein] are or were veterans, as defined in section 27-103, as amended
1205 by this act, and (C) who were citizens or resident aliens of the state at

1206 the time of entering said armed forces of the United States, including the
1207 Connecticut National Guard, or of any such government, (2) to their
1208 spouses who are living with them, (3) to their widows or widowers who
1209 were living with them at the time of death, or (4) to dependent children
1210 under eighteen years of age, who may be in need of the same. All such
1211 payments shall be made by the American Legion under authority of its
1212 bylaws, which bylaws shall set forth the procedure for proof of
1213 eligibility for such aid, provided payments made for the care and
1214 treatment of any person entitled to the benefits provided for herein, at
1215 any hospital receiving aid from the General Assembly unless special
1216 care and treatment are required, shall be in accordance with the
1217 provisions of section 17b-239, and provided the sum expended for the
1218 care or treatment of such person at any other place than a state-aided
1219 hospital shall in no case exceed the actual cost of supporting such person
1220 at the Healthcare Center in Rocky Hill maintained by the Department of
1221 Veterans Affairs, unless special care and treatment are required, when
1222 such sum as may be determined by the treasurer of such organization
1223 may be paid therefor. Upon the completion of the trust provided for in
1224 section 27-138, the principal fund shall revert to the State Treasury.

1225 Sec. 35. Subsection (b) of section 29-161q of the general statutes is
1226 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
1227 *1, 2021*):

1228 (b) No person hired or otherwise engaged to perform work as a
1229 security officer, as defined in section 29-152u, shall perform the duties
1230 of a security officer prior to being licensed as a security officer by the
1231 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, except as
1232 provided in subsection (h) of this section. Each applicant for a license
1233 shall complete a minimum of eight hours training in the following areas:
1234 Basic first aid, search and seizure laws and regulations, use of force,
1235 basic criminal justice and public safety issues. The commissioner shall
1236 waive such training for any person who, while serving in the armed
1237 forces or the National Guard, or if such person is a veteran, within two
1238 years of such person's discharge from the armed forces, presents proof
1239 that such person has completed military training that is equivalent to

1240 the training required by this subsection, and, if applicable, such person's
1241 military discharge document or a certified copy thereof. For the
1242 purposes of this subsection, "veteran" [means any person who was
1243 discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable from
1244 active service in the armed forces,] and "armed forces" [has] have the
1245 same [meaning] meanings as provided in section 27-103, as amended by
1246 this act, and "military discharge document" has the same meaning as
1247 provided in section 1-219. The training shall be approved by the
1248 commissioner in accordance with regulations adopted pursuant to
1249 section 29-161x. The commissioner may not grant a license to any person
1250 who has been decertified as a police officer or otherwise had his or her
1251 certification canceled, revoked or refused renewal pursuant to
1252 subsection (c) of section 7-294d.

1253 (1) On and after October 1, 2008, no person or employee of an
1254 association, corporation or partnership shall conduct such training
1255 without the approval of the commissioner except as provided in
1256 subdivision (2) of this subsection. Application for such approval shall
1257 be submitted on forms prescribed by the commissioner and
1258 accompanied by a fee of forty dollars. Such application shall be made
1259 under oath and shall contain the applicant's name, address, date and
1260 place of birth, employment for the previous five years, education or
1261 training in the subjects required to be taught under this subsection, any
1262 convictions for violations of the law and such other information as the
1263 commissioner may require by regulation adopted pursuant to section
1264 29-161x to properly investigate the character, competency and integrity
1265 of the applicant. No person shall be approved as an instructor for such
1266 training who has been convicted of a felony, a sexual offense or a crime
1267 of moral turpitude or who has been denied approval as a security
1268 service licensee, a security officer or instructor in the security industry
1269 by any licensing authority, or whose approval has been revoked or
1270 suspended. The term for such approval shall not exceed two years. Not
1271 later than two business days after a change of address, any person
1272 approved as an instructor in accordance with this section shall notify the
1273 commissioner of such change and such notification shall include both

1274 the old and new addresses.

1275 (2) If a security officer training course described in this subsection is
1276 approved by the commissioner on or before September 30, 2008, the
1277 instructor of such course shall have until April 1, 2009, to apply for
1278 approval as an instructor in accordance with subdivision (1) of this
1279 subsection.

1280 (3) Each person approved as an instructor in accordance with this
1281 section may apply for the renewal of such approval on a form approved
1282 by the commissioner, accompanied by a fee of forty dollars. Such form
1283 may require the disclosure of any information necessary for the
1284 commissioner to determine whether the instructor's suitability to serve
1285 as an instructor has changed since the issuance of the prior approval.
1286 The term of such renewed approval shall not exceed two years.

1287 Sec. 36. Subsection (c) of section 31-3w of the general statutes is
1288 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
1289 *1, 2021*):

1290 (c) (1) When contacted by a veteran who is in need of employment or
1291 work force development services, the department shall (A) determine
1292 whether the veteran resides closer to a work force development board
1293 facility with a veterans unit than to a department facility offering such
1294 employment or work force development assistance and, if so, provide
1295 the veteran with contact information for the work force development
1296 board, and (B) provide a veteran who expresses an interest in advanced
1297 manufacturing, as defined in section 31-11ss, as amended by this act,
1298 with information on the Military to Machinists program operated
1299 pursuant to section 31-11ss, as amended by this act, if such veteran may
1300 be eligible for services from such program.

1301 (2) For purposes of this subsection, "veteran" [means any person (A)
1302 honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions
1303 from active service in, the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, or
1304 (B) with a qualifying condition, as defined in section 27-103, who has
1305 received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active

1306 service in the armed forces] has the same meaning as provided in section
1307 27-103, as amended by this act.

1308 Sec. 37. Section 31-3zz of the general statutes is repealed and the
1309 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

1310 The Labor Commissioner shall establish a Special Operations
1311 Resource Network to serve as a clearinghouse for veterans and
1312 members of the armed forces and National Guard who have acquired,
1313 as part of their military training, knowledge, experience or a set of skills
1314 most compatible with certain professional opportunities. The Labor
1315 Commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of Veterans
1316 Affairs and the Adjutant General, shall develop a database in which
1317 such veterans and members are categorized based on the types of
1318 military training received and cross-referenced against certain
1319 professional opportunities for purposes of pairing any such veteran or
1320 member with any such professional opportunity. Any veteran or
1321 member of the armed forces or National Guard may apply for inclusion
1322 in such database by submitting (1) evidence of the military training
1323 received by such veteran or member describing the particular
1324 knowledge, experience or set of skills acquired, and (2) if such applicant
1325 is a veteran, such veteran's military discharge document or a certified
1326 copy thereof. The Labor Commissioner shall evaluate any such
1327 application, include such veteran or member in such database, and so
1328 categorize such veteran or member as described in this section. The
1329 Labor Commissioner shall update such database weekly and shall
1330 publish such database on the Labor Department's Internet web site. Any
1331 person interested in hiring any such veteran or member included in
1332 such database shall contact the department through a dedicated
1333 telephone number and the department shall facilitate contact between
1334 such person and such veteran or member. For the purposes of this
1335 section, [(A)] "veteran" [means any person who was discharged or
1336 released under conditions other than dishonorable from active service
1337 in the armed forces, (B)] and "armed forces" [has] have the same
1338 [meaning] meanings as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this
1339 act, and [(C)] "military discharge document" has the same meaning as

1340 provided in section 1-219.

1341 Sec. 38. Subsection (a) of section 31-11ss of the general statutes is
1342 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
1343 *1, 2021*):

1344 (a) As used in this section:

1345 (1) "Advanced manufacturing" means a manufacturing process that
1346 makes extensive use of computer, high-precision or information
1347 technologies integrated with a high-performance work force in a
1348 production system capable of furnishing a heterogeneous mix of
1349 products in small or large volumes with either the efficiency of mass
1350 production or the flexibility of custom manufacturing in order to
1351 respond quickly to customer demands. "Advanced manufacturing"
1352 includes newly developed methods to manufacture existing products
1353 and the manufacture of new products emerging from new advanced
1354 technologies;

1355 (2) "Eligible business" means a business that (A) has operations in
1356 Connecticut, (B) has been registered to conduct business for not less than
1357 twelve months, and (C) is in good standing with respect to the payment
1358 of all state and local taxes. "Eligible business" does not include the state
1359 or any political subdivision thereof;

1360 (3) "Private occupational school" has the same meaning as provided
1361 in section 10a-22a;

1362 (4) "Public institution of higher education" means any of the
1363 institutions of higher education identified in subdivision (2) of section
1364 10a-1;

1365 (5) "Qualifying advanced manufacturing certificate program" means
1366 a for-credit or noncredit sub-baccalaureate advanced manufacturing
1367 certificate program offered by a public institution of higher education
1368 or a private occupational school in which at least seventy-five per cent
1369 of the graduates of such certificate program are employed in a field

1370 related to or requiring such certificate in the year following graduation;
1371 and

1372 (6) "Veteran" [means any person (A) honorably discharged from, or
1373 released under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed
1374 forces, as defined in section 27-103, or (B) with a qualifying condition,
1375 as defined in section 27-103, who has received a discharge other than
1376 bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in the armed forces]
1377 has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this
1378 act.

1379 Sec. 39. Subsection (a) of section 31-11tt of the general statutes is
1380 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
1381 *1, 2021*):

1382 (a) Not later than October 1, 2019, the work force development board
1383 for the southwest work force development region of the state shall
1384 develop and operate a pilot program to be known as the Veterans
1385 Platform to Employment Program. The program shall provide training
1386 and subsidized employment for veterans who have experienced long-
1387 term unemployment in a similar manner to the Platform to Employment
1388 Program currently operated by such board. The pilot program shall
1389 provide veterans in a region served by the program with (1) a
1390 preparatory program that includes services such as skills assessments,
1391 career readiness workshops, employee assistance programs and
1392 coaching, and (2) employment assistance that includes identifying
1393 positions at local employers and providing subsidies to employers that
1394 hire veterans for trial work experiences that may lead to continued
1395 employment. The pilot program may offer additional services to assist
1396 veterans, including personal and family support services and financial
1397 counseling. As used in this section, "veteran" [means any person (A)
1398 honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions
1399 from active service in, the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, or
1400 (B) with a qualifying condition, as defined in section 27-103, who has
1401 received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active
1402 service in the armed forces] has the same meaning as provided in section

1403 27-103, as amended by this act.

1404 Sec. 40. Section 31-22u of the general statutes is repealed and the
1405 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

1406 Any member of the armed forces or National Guard or any veteran,
1407 within two years of such veteran's discharge from the armed forces, may
1408 submit an application for military training evaluation to the Labor
1409 Department program of apprentice training set forth in section 31-22q.
1410 Such application shall include (1) evidence of satisfactory completion of
1411 a program or course of instruction as part of military training that is
1412 equivalent in content and quality to that required for a specific trade in
1413 this state, and (2) if such applicant is a veteran, such veteran's military
1414 discharge document or a certified copy thereof. The Labor
1415 Commissioner shall evaluate any such application and determine
1416 whether the applicant's military training may be substituted for all or
1417 part of the term of an apprenticeship program registered with the Labor
1418 Department for a specific trade. If the commissioner determines that the
1419 applicant's military training is equivalent to the training required for
1420 completion of such apprenticeship program, the commissioner shall
1421 issue such applicant a recommendation for review by the appropriate
1422 examining board established under section 20-331. Presentation of such
1423 recommendation, pursuant to section 20-333, shall allow such applicant
1424 to sit for any licensure examination without participation in an
1425 apprenticeship program. If the commissioner determines that the
1426 applicant's military training is equivalent to part of the training required
1427 for completion of an apprenticeship program, such applicant's hours of
1428 qualified military training, as determined by the commissioner, shall be
1429 deducted from the hours of apprenticeship training required for the
1430 specific trade provided (A) such applicant completes the minimum
1431 number of hours of apprenticeship training required under federal law,
1432 and (B) prior to implementation of this provision, the Labor Department
1433 obtains concurrence with such provision from the federal office of
1434 apprenticeship pursuant to 29 CFR 29.13(b)(9). For the purposes of this
1435 section, [(i)] "veteran" [means any person who was discharged or
1436 released under conditions other than dishonorable from active service

1437 in the armed forces, (ii)] and "armed forces" [has] have the same
1438 [meaning] meanings as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this
1439 act, and [(iii)] "military discharge document" has the same meaning as
1440 provided in section 1-219.

1441 Sec. 41. Section 51-49h of the general statutes is repealed and the
1442 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

1443 (a) Any judge of the Superior Court, the Appellate Court or the
1444 Supreme Court who first commenced service as a judge prior to January
1445 1, 1981, may elect to receive the retirement salary provided under
1446 subsection (b) of section 51-50. The surviving spouse of a deceased judge
1447 who has made an election under this section shall receive the allowances
1448 provided under subsection (b) of section 51-51.

1449 (b) Any such judge, any family support magistrate or any
1450 compensation commissioner who is a veteran may receive credit for
1451 retirement purposes for military service, if such judge, family support
1452 magistrate or compensation commissioner makes retirement
1453 contributions for each month of military service equal to one-twelfth of
1454 five per cent of his first year's salary as a judge, family support
1455 magistrate or compensation commissioner multiplied by the total
1456 number of months of such military service, except that (1) no retirement
1457 contribution shall be made for service as a prisoner of war, and (2) no
1458 credit shall be allowed for military service to any such judge, family
1459 support magistrate or compensation commissioner who has served less
1460 than ten years as a judge, family support magistrate or compensation
1461 commissioner, nor for more than fifty per cent of such military service
1462 or three years, whichever is less. Service credit for military service for
1463 retirement purposes other than service as a prisoner of war shall not be
1464 granted until payment of contributions is completed. Any application
1465 for military service credit under this section for service as a prisoner of
1466 war shall be accompanied by sufficient proof from the United States
1467 Department of Veterans Affairs that such judge, family support
1468 magistrate or compensation commissioner is a former prisoner of war.

1469 (c) For purposes of this section: (1) "Armed forces" means the United
1470 States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Air Force; (2)
1471 "veteran" [means any person honorably discharged from, or released
1472 under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed forces] has
1473 the same meaning as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act;
1474 (3) "military service" shall be service during World War II, December 7,
1475 1941, to December 31, 1946; the Korean hostilities, June 27, 1950, to
1476 October 27, 1953; and the Vietnam era, January 1, 1964, to July 1, 1975,
1477 and shall include service as a prisoner of war.

1478 Sec. 42. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 54-56e of the general statutes
1479 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
1480 *October 1, 2021*):

1481 (a) There shall be a pretrial program for accelerated rehabilitation of
1482 persons accused of a crime or crimes or a motor vehicle violation or
1483 violations for which a sentence to a term of imprisonment may be
1484 imposed, which crimes or violations are not of a serious nature. Upon
1485 application by any such person for participation in the program, the
1486 court shall, but only as to the public, order the court file sealed.

1487 (b) The court may, in its discretion, invoke such program on motion
1488 of the defendant or on motion of a state's attorney or prosecuting
1489 attorney with respect to a defendant (1) who, the court believes, will
1490 probably not offend in the future, (2) who has no previous record of
1491 conviction of a crime or of a violation of section 14-196, subsection (c) of
1492 section 14-215, section 14-222a, subsection (a) or subdivision (1) of
1493 subsection (b) of section 14-224, section 14-227a or 14-227m or
1494 subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of section 14-227n, and (3) who
1495 states under oath, in open court or before any person designated by the
1496 clerk and duly authorized to administer oaths, under the penalties of
1497 perjury, (A) that the defendant has never had such program invoked on
1498 the defendant's behalf or that the defendant was charged with a
1499 misdemeanor or a motor vehicle violation for which a term of
1500 imprisonment of one year or less may be imposed and ten or more years
1501 have passed since the date that any charge or charges for which the

1502 program was invoked on the defendant's behalf were dismissed by the
1503 court, or (B) with respect to a defendant who is a veteran, that the
1504 defendant has not had such program invoked in the defendant's behalf
1505 more than once previously, provided the defendant shall agree thereto
1506 and provided notice has been given by the defendant, on a form
1507 prescribed by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator, to the victim
1508 or victims of such crime or motor vehicle violation, if any, by registered
1509 or certified mail and such victim or victims have an opportunity to be
1510 heard thereon. Any defendant who makes application for participation
1511 in such program shall pay to the court an application fee of thirty-five
1512 dollars. No defendant shall be allowed to participate in the pretrial
1513 program for accelerated rehabilitation more than two times. For the
1514 purposes of this section, "veteran" [means any person who was
1515 discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable from
1516 active service in the armed forces as defined in section 27-103] has the
1517 same meaning as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act.

1518 Sec. 43. Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 54-56i of the general
1519 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
1520 (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

1521 (a) There is established a pretrial drug education and community
1522 service program for persons charged with a violation of section 21a-267,
1523 21a-279 or 21a-279a. The pretrial drug education and community service
1524 program shall include a fifteen-session drug education program and a
1525 substance abuse treatment program of not less than fifteen sessions, and
1526 the performance of community service.

1527 (b) Upon application by any such person for participation in such
1528 program, the court shall, but only as to the public, order the court file
1529 sealed, and such person shall pay to the court of an application fee of
1530 one hundred dollars and a nonrefundable evaluation fee of one hundred
1531 fifty dollars. A person shall be ineligible for participation in such pretrial
1532 drug education and community service program if such person has
1533 twice previously participated in (1) the pretrial drug education program
1534 established under the provisions of this section in effect prior to October

1535 1, 2013, (2) the community service labor program established under
1536 section 53a-39c, (3) the pretrial drug education and community service
1537 program established under this section, or (4) any of such programs,
1538 except that the court may allow a person who has twice previously
1539 participated in such programs to participate in the pretrial drug
1540 education and community service program one additional time, for
1541 good cause shown. The evaluation and application fee imposed under
1542 this subsection shall be credited to the pretrial account established
1543 under section 54-56k.

1544 (c) The court, after consideration of the recommendation of the state's
1545 attorney, assistant state's attorney or deputy assistant state's attorney in
1546 charge of the case, may, in its discretion, grant such application. If the
1547 court grants such application, the court shall refer such person (1) to the
1548 Court Support Services Division for confirmation of the eligibility of the
1549 applicant, (2) to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction
1550 Services for evaluation and determination of an appropriate drug
1551 education or substance abuse treatment program for the first or second
1552 time such application is granted, and (3) to a state-licensed substance
1553 abuse treatment program for evaluation and determination of an
1554 appropriate substance abuse treatment program for the third time such
1555 application is granted, except that, if such person is a veteran, the court
1556 may refer such person to the Department of Veterans Affairs or the
1557 United States Department of Veterans Affairs, as applicable, for any
1558 such evaluation and determination. For the purposes of this subsection
1559 and subsection (d) of this section, "veteran" [means any person who was
1560 discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable from
1561 active service in the armed forces as defined in section 27-103] has the
1562 same meaning as provided in section 27-103, as amended by this act.

1563 Sec. 44. Subsection (a) of section 54-56l of the general statutes is
1564 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
1565 *1, 2021*):

1566 (a) There shall be a supervised diversionary program for persons
1567 with psychiatric disabilities, or persons who are veterans, who are

1568 accused of a crime or crimes or a motor vehicle violation or violations
1569 for which a sentence to a term of imprisonment may be imposed, which
1570 crimes or violations are not of a serious nature. For the purposes of this
1571 section, (1) "psychiatric disability" means a mental or emotional
1572 condition, other than solely substance abuse, that (A) has substantial
1573 adverse effects on the defendant's ability to function, and (B) requires
1574 care and treatment, and (2) "veteran" means a [person] veteran, as
1575 defined in section 27-103, as amended by this act, who is found,
1576 pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, to have a mental health
1577 condition that is amenable to treatment, [, and who was discharged or
1578 released under conditions other than dishonorable from active service
1579 in the armed forces as defined in section 27-103.]

1580 Sec. 45. Section 54-56n of the general statutes is repealed and the
1581 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

1582 (a) The Judicial Branch shall collect data on the number of members
1583 of the armed forces, veterans and nonveterans who, on and after
1584 January 1, 2016, apply for and are granted admission or are denied entry
1585 into (1) the pretrial program for accelerated rehabilitation established
1586 pursuant to section 54-56e, (2) the supervised diversionary program
1587 established pursuant to section 54-56l, or (3) the pretrial drug education
1588 and community service program established pursuant to section 54-56i.
1589 Data compiled pursuant to this section shall be based on information
1590 provided by applicants at the time of application to any such program.
1591 For the purposes of this section, "veteran" [means any person who was
1592 discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable from
1593 active service in the armed forces] and "armed forces" [has] have the
1594 same [meaning] meanings as provided in section 27-103, as amended by
1595 this act.

(b) Not later than January 15, 2017, and annually thereafter, the
Judicial Branch shall submit a report detailing the data compiled for the
previous calendar year pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to the
joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance
of matters relating to veterans' and military affairs and the judiciary, in

accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	27-103
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	4-61bb(a)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	4a-59(c)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	5-196(28)
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	7-294d(b)
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	8-75
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	10-5(a) to (c)
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	10-221a(i)
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	10a-77(d)
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	10a-99(d)
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	10a-105(e)
Sec. 12	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	10a-149d(a)
Sec. 13	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	10a-161d(a)
Sec. 14	<i>October 1, 2021, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2021</i>	12-81(19)
Sec. 15	<i>October 1, 2021, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2021</i>	12-81(22)
Sec. 16	<i>October 1, 2021, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2021</i>	12-81(25)
Sec. 17	<i>October 1, 2021, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2021</i>	12-81jj(b)(2)
Sec. 18	<i>October 1, 2021, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2021</i>	12-93
Sec. 19	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	12-217pp(a)
Sec. 20	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	12-412(63)(D)
Sec. 21	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	14-20b(a)
Sec. 22	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	14-36(e)(3)

Sec. 23	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	14-36h(e) and (f)
Sec. 24	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	14-50(c)
Sec. 25	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	14-254
Sec. 26	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	17b-28i(a)
Sec. 27	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	19a-179
Sec. 28	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	20-206mm(j) and (k)
Sec. 29	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	27-108(a)
Sec. 30	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	27-109
Sec. 31	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	27-118
Sec. 32	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	27-122b(a)
Sec. 33	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	27-125
Sec. 34	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	27-140
Sec. 35	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	29-161q(b)
Sec. 36	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	31-3w(c)
Sec. 37	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	31-3zz
Sec. 38	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	31-11ss(a)
Sec. 39	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	31-11tt(a)
Sec. 40	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	31-22u
Sec. 41	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	51-49h
Sec. 42	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	54-56e(a) and (b)
Sec. 43	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	54-56i(a) to (c)
Sec. 44	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	54-56l(a)
Sec. 45	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	54-56n

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Loss	See Below	See Below
Resources of the Special Transportation Fund	TF - Potential Revenue Loss	See Below	See Below
Various State Agencies	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund; TF=Transportation Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Revenue Loss	See Below	See Below

Explanation

This bill expands the eligibility of veterans' benefits and establishes a Qualified Condition Review Board. It results in costs to multiple agencies and revenue loss to the General Fund and multiple municipalities. The bill expands veterans' benefits to those who were discharged under conditions other than honorable where a determination that sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression was more likely than not the sole reason for the discharge.

It is estimated that this bill would affect approximately 200¹ people regarding sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. The population utilization rate of these benefits is unknown.

¹ Source: Department of Veterans' Affairs

Section 1 requires the Department of Veterans' Affairs to establish a Qualified Condition Review Board which results in no fiscal impact to the agency because members of the board shall serve without compensation. Below is a non-exhaustive list of wartime and non-wartime benefits with a fiscal impact that this population could be eligible for²:

Non-Wartime Benefits:

- **Veterans' Small Business:** The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) provides certain veteran-owned businesses with up to a 15% price preference for certain open market orders and contracts.
- **High School Diploma:** The exam fee for high school diplomas is waived for veterans.
- **Veterans' Agriculture Program:** This program gives a tax incentive to encourage certain veterans to start a farming business. The average incentive provided for a start-up farmer is less than \$1,500.
- **Certain Veteran Benefits Not Included in Public Assistance Program Eligibility Requirements:** The Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner disregards a veteran's or surviving spouse's federal Aid and Attendance pension benefits when calculating income for certain assistance programs.

Wartime Benefits:

- **Retirement Credit:** Special service credit for members of the Municipal Employees' Retirement System for those who leave employment to enter the armed forces and then return to

² All veterans are eligible for non-wartime benefits, but additional requirements must be met for wartime benefits.

employment within six months of discharge. Also, state workers in hazardous duty service who were granted military leave and returned within 90 days of discharge receive retirement credit for the period of their wartime service.

- **Tuition Waivers:** State public colleges and universities except for Charter Oak State College waive tuition for wartime veterans who are accepted into the institution and live in the state.
- **Property Tax Exemptions:** State law provides a minimum \$1,500 in municipal property tax exemptions. Municipalities also have the option to exempt \$20,000 or 10% of the property's assessed value in addition to the veterans' exemptions.
- **Motor Vehicle Registration Fee Exemptions:** The law authorizes free motor vehicle registration if a wartime veteran is disabled, a former prisoner of war, or a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor.
- **Disabled Veterans License Plates:** The commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will issue free number plates to a disabled veteran. These plates exempt the veteran from overtime parking fines provided they don't leave their vehicle in the same spot for 24 hours.
- **Admission to the Veterans Healthcare Center:** Wartime veterans are eligible for admission to the Veterans Healthcare Center. They are also eligible for admission to certain hospitals at state expense unless other funds are available.
- **Burial Expenses:** If a wartime veteran dies without enough money to pay for burial expenses as determined by the commissioner of the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), the state must pay \$1,800 toward his or her funeral expenses.
- **Commissioner's Temporary Assistance:** Wartime veterans with a disability or other service-related cause are eligible for

temporary financial assistance from the Commissioner of DVA in an amount and for the time he decides.

Soldiers', Sailors' and Marines' Fund (SSMF): Provides temporary aid to needy wartime veterans and their spouses and dependent veterans.

House "A" reduces the cost in the underlying bill by removing the provision of benefits for veterans related to mental health conditions. The extent of the reduction is unknown as it is unknown how many people would qualify under a mental health condition.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5592 (as amended by House "A")******AN ACT REDEFINING "VETERAN" AND ESTABLISHING A QUALIFIED CONDITION REVIEW BOARD.*****SUMMARY**

This bill expands the general definition of "veteran" under state law to include those released with an other than honorable (OTH) discharge based on specified qualifying conditions and applies this new definition across veterans benefit programs. In doing so, it extends state-based benefits to certain veterans who are currently ineligible.

Under current law, a "veteran" is any person honorably discharged, or released under honorable conditions, from active service in the U.S. Armed Forces. Current law also extends specified benefits to veterans with an OTH discharge and a qualifying condition (i.e., a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or traumatic brain injury or a disclosed military sexual trauma). The bill incorporates these existing qualifying conditions into the general definition of veteran and expands the list to also include a determination that sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression was more likely than not the primary reason for the OTH discharge.

For veterans who believe their OTH discharge is due to one of the new qualifying conditions, the bill establishes a process by which they may apply to a five-member Qualifying Review Board to determine their eligibility. Veterans whose applications are approved through the review board process are eligible for state-based veterans benefits.

The bill makes numerous conforming changes, including changes to agency reporting requirements (§§ 2 & 45) and provisions requiring veterans to submit their discharge papers (or other qualifying

documents) as proof of their eligibility for veteran's property tax exemptions (§§ 17 & 18).

Lastly, the bill modifies the definition of "Healthcare Center," which under current law is the Department of Veterans Affairs-maintained hospital in Rocky Hill. The bill instead designates it as a long-term care facility (i.e., a facility federally certified as a skilled nursing facility or "intermediate care facility") to conform to current practice.

*House Amendment "A" (1) eliminates mental health conditions from the new classes of qualifying conditions and makes conforming changes; (2) requires the new qualifying conditions to have been the primary, rather than sole, reason for the OTH discharge; (3) eliminates the requirement that the review board presume that a veteran's qualifying condition was the reason for the OTH discharge if it was documented as the reason for separation on his or her DD-214 form; and (4) modifies the definition of the Healthcare Center to conform to current practice.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021; the property tax-related provisions are applicable to assessment years beginning on or after October 1, 2021.

VETERANS BENEFITS AND PROGRAMS EXTENDED TO NEW CLASSES OF QUALIFYING CONDITIONS

Current state law generally defines a veteran in three ways. The general definition is anyone honorably discharged or released under honorable conditions from active duty in the armed forces. But for certain benefit programs, current law defines a veteran as anyone (1) with an OTH discharge and a qualifying condition (i.e., a diagnosis of PTSD or traumatic brain injury or a disclosed military sexual trauma) or (2) discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable from active service in the armed forces (which mirrors the federal definition of veteran; in practice, it includes those with an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions).

The bill applies one definition across the various benefit programs.

Under the bill, a “veteran” is anyone honorably discharged or released under honorable conditions from active duty in the armed forces or anyone with an OTH discharge based on the following qualifying conditions:

1. a PTSD or traumatic brain injury diagnosis by a licensed health care professional at a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facility;
2. a military sexual trauma experience disclosed to such a health care professional; and
3. a determination by the Qualifying Review Board that sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression was more likely than not the primary reason for the OTH discharge (see below) (see BACKGROUND).

The bill makes conforming changes throughout the veterans benefit programs and, in doing so, extends certain benefits to veterans who are currently not eligible. The following tables group these benefits according to the definition of veteran that currently applies. The bill’s definition change also applies to other existing statutory provisions not listed in these tables that reference the general definition of veteran amended by the bill.

As under existing law, some of these benefits are limited to veterans with war time service and some are also available to eligible surviving parents, spouses, or minor children.

The bill extends the benefits under Table 1 to veterans with an OTH discharge that is based on one of the bill’s two new qualifying conditions.

Table 1: Benefits Available to Veterans With an (1) Honorable Discharge, Released Under Honorable Conditions or (2) OTH Discharge and a Qualifying Condition Under Current Law

<i>Bill §</i>	<i>Description</i>
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3	Price preference for certain Department of Administrative Services open market orders or contracts for veteran-owned micro-businesses (CGS § 4a-59)
4	Bonus points on state civil service examinations for original appointments (CGS § 5-224)
4	Special service credit for state employee retirement (CGS § 5-180)
4	Inclusion of time served in war in the length of state employment for veterans who were reinstated as state employees after returning from military service (CGS § 5-255)
6	Preference for certain state-funded moderate-income rental housing projects (CGS § 8-75)
7	Fee waiver for taking or retaking the examination for state high school diploma (CGS § 10-5)
8	Honorary high school diploma for veterans who withdrew from high school for military service in World War II, the Korean Hostilities, or during the Vietnam era (CGS § 10-221a)
9-11	Tuition waivers for the state's public colleges and universities (CGS §§ 10a-77, -99 & -105)
14	Basic veteran's property tax exemption (CGS § 12-81(19))
15	Property tax exemption for a veteran's surviving spouse or minor child (CGS § 12-81(22))
16	Property tax exemption for the sole surviving parent, spouse, or minor child of a veteran (CGS § 12-81(25))
20	Tax incentive to encourage certain veterans to start a farming business (CGS § 12-412(63))
21	Special veteran's license plates (CGS § 14-20b)
23	Veterans status on state driver's license or identity card (CGS § 14-36h)
24	Motor vehicle operator's license and registration fee waiver for one licensing period for qualifying veterans (CGS § 14-50)
25	Special license plates for qualifying disabled wartime veterans (CGS § 14-254)
26	Income disregard for federal Aid and Attendance pension benefits for purposes of specified means-tested public assistance programs (CGS § 17b-28i)
29	Admission to the Veterans Residential Services facility or Healthcare Center (CGS § 27-108)

30	Preference for admission into any hospital, upon the Veterans Affairs commissioner's request, at the state's expense unless other means of payment are available (CGS § 27-109)
31	\$1,800 toward funeral expenses or cremation for indigent veterans (CGS § 27-118)
33	Temporary financial assistance for qualifying wartime veterans at the commissioner's discretion (CGS § 27-125)
34	Temporary aid (such as food, clothing, and medical and surgical aid) from the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund (CGS § 27-140)
36	Eligibility for specified employment and workforce development information from the Department of Labor (CGS § 31-3w)
38-39	Specified veterans' workforce development pilot programs in the workforce development board for the state's southwest region (CGS §§ 31-11ss & -11tt)

The bill extends the benefits under Table 2 to veterans who have an OTH discharge that is based on a qualifying condition under the bill or under existing law.

Table 2: Benefits Currently Available Only to Veterans With an Honorable Discharge or Released Under Honorable Conditions

Bill §	Description
13	Institutional aid for qualifying veterans without legal immigration status to attend a state public higher education institution (CGS § 10a-161d)
19	Qualifying employee for purposes of the job expansion tax credit program (which is obsolete) (CGS § 12-217pp)
32	Burial in state veterans' cemetery (CGS § 27-122b)
41	Credit for military service for retirement purposes for judges, family support magistrates, or compensation commissioners (CGS § 51-49h)

The bill expressly applies the benefits in Table 3 to veterans who were honorably discharged or discharged under honorable conditions and those with an OTH discharge that is based on a qualifying condition under the bill or existing law.

Table 3: Benefits Currently Available to Veterans With an Other than Dishonorable Discharge

Bill §	Description
5	Police officer certification for eligible veterans with qualifying military training (provided the applicant passes the examination or evaluation) (CGS § 7-294d)
12	College credit at the state's public higher education institutions for enrolled veterans with military occupational specialty training (CGS § 10a-149d)
22	Motor vehicle license examination waivers for qualifying veterans (CGS § 14-36)
27	Exemption from training and testing requirements for emergency medical technician (EMT) licensure and certification for veterans with appropriate military training (CGS § 19a-179)
28	Exemption from written or practical exemption for EMT certification for qualified veterans (CGS § 20-206mm)
35	Security guard training waiver (CGS § 29-161q)
37	Inclusion in the labor department's clearinghouse for veterans and armed forces members with specialized training (CGS § 31-3zz)
40	Eligibility for military training evaluation that waives all or part of an apprenticeship program's requirements (CGS § 31-22u)
42-44	Eligibility for certain pretrial diversionary programs (CGS §§ 54-56e, -56i & -56l)

QUALIFYING REVIEW BOARD

Purpose

The bill requires the Veterans Affairs commissioner, by October 1, 2021, to establish a Qualifying Review Board as an executive branch board. Under the bill, veterans who receive an OTH discharge and believe that it was based on their sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, may apply to this board for a review and recommendation to the commissioner for state-based veterans benefits approval.

Composition

The board is composed of five voting members, all of whom must be knowledgeable of veterans benefits and programs and have a

demonstrated interest in veterans issues. The Veterans Affairs commissioner appoints four members, one of whom must be a member of the Department of Veterans Affairs Board of Trustees appointed in consultation with the board's chairperson. The remaining member is the department's Office of Advocacy and Assistance manager, or his or her designee. At least three of the members must be veterans. Members are not compensated for their service.

Terms

The initial appointments must be made by December 1, 2021. The initial members serve staggered terms: the Board of Trustees member and Office of Advocacy and Assistance manager, or the manager's designee, serve three-year terms and the remaining members serve two-year terms. The initial terms end on November 31, 2023, or 2024, as applicable, regardless of when the members are first appointed.

Subsequently appointed members serve four-year terms. Members hold office until a successor is appointed and may be reappointed. The Veterans Affairs commissioner must fill any vacancy for the balance of a member's unexpired term.

Meetings and Procedures

The commissioner must select the board's chairperson from among its members, who must schedule the board's first meeting by January 1, 2022. The board must meet at least monthly or as often as the chairperson deems necessary based on the number of pending applications.

A majority of board members constitutes a quorum for transacting any of the board's business.

Application Review Process

Forms. The commissioner must prepare standardized application forms for veterans seeking to apply for state benefits or filing a request for reconsideration, as described below. The application forms must (1) list the required documents necessary for filing and (2) be available on

the department's website, along with filing instructions.

The bill authorizes veterans to include with their applications evidence supporting their claims that their discharge characterization was based on their sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

Review. The board must review each application and make a recommendation to the commissioner as to whether the veteran's sexual orientation or gender identity or expression was more likely than not the primary reason for the OTH discharge.

Timeline. The board must review each application within 30 days after receiving it and make its written recommendation within 30 days after its review. The commissioner then has up to 10 days after receiving the board's recommendation to issue his written decision to approve or deny the application.

Appeals. Any veteran aggrieved by the commissioner's decision may (1) file a request for reconsideration with the commissioner within 15 days after receiving the decision and (2) include additional documents in support of his or her request. No later than 10 days after receiving the request, the commissioner must consider it and issue the department's final decision. A person aggrieved by the final decision may appeal under the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act (UAPA). (Generally, under the UAPA, aggrieved parties have 45 days to appeal final agency decisions to the Superior Court.)

BACKGROUND

Veterans Discharged Under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

Regardless of their discharge classification, veterans who were or would have been denied federal benefits solely based on their sexual orientation under any federal policy prohibiting homosexual personnel from serving in the military (e.g., "Don't Ask, Don't Tell") are eligible for state benefits if their federal benefits have been restored (CGS § 27-102q).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 17 Nay 0 (03/18/2021)